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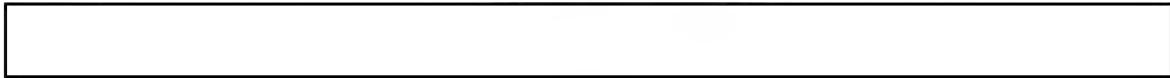
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27 February 1963

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CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Sino-Soviet Relations: The Peiping People's Daily editorial of 27 February sets conditions for an international Communist conference which Khrushchev is certain to reject.

The editorial demands that Moscow first cease its attacks on the Chinese and Albanians while permitting Peiping to continue its condemnation of Yugoslavia. It also calls on the Soviets to acknowledge "past mistakes" and apologize to the parties they have denounced.

The editorial reflects the continuing severe strains in the Sino-Soviet alliance. Although Peiping characterized Mao Tse-tung's meeting with the Soviet ambassador last Saturday as "cordial," People's Daily on Sunday directed its fire at French and Italian Communists for "attacking the Communist Party of China." Then on 26 February, the Chinese newspaper carried the text of an Albanian editorial which suggested that Khrushchev was trying to establish a "false unity" in the bloc.

Despite Khrushchev's request for a pause in the polemics, the language of the Chinese editorial is up to the level of the strongest invective that Peiping has employed in the Sino-Soviet dispute. It explicitly attacks the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for "major mistakes" at its 20th party congress, scorns fears that "even a tiny spark can cause a world conflagration," and condemns the Soviet attitude on the Sino-Indian border dispute. It insists on Chinese independence of Moscow, criticizing the actions of the French Communist Party in following "somebody else's lead" on Cuba.

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* France--US--EEC: France is likely to drag its feet in the forthcoming US-EEC negotiations on the US Trade Expansion Act, but will probably stop short of disrupting them.

Ambassador Bohlen in Paris points out that, for more than a year, French officials have made no effort to conceal their distaste for the Trade Expansion Act.

On tariffs, Paris has made it unmistakably clear that it is in no mood to accept reductions of the magnitude envisaged by the act. The French have argued that large tariff reductions would weaken the cohesiveness and "essential European character" of the EEC. French business leaders are also emphasizing that there must be more time for European enterprises to merge and consolidate on the American scale before trade barriers between the US and Europe can be substantially reduced.

Bohlen believes that Paris will agree to some tariff reductions, however, and be generally more forthcoming in the negotiations if the other five EEC members do not block further French initiatives on the internal development of the EEC. Leaders of the other five generally support the objectives of the US act, but there is some sentiment for the French position in all these countries.

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Burma: The Ne Win military regime is in trouble.

There is widespread discontent and apprehension among both urban and rural segments of the population over acceleration of the government's nationalization program and the recent ouster of moderate Aung Gyi--formerly number-two man. Farmers, particularly, are bitter over new regulations governing the sale of rice to the state.

While civilian opposition is not unified at present, discontent is serious and spontaneous demonstrations could develop at any time. Government repression would fan civil strife and might lead to disaffection among the military.

The present difficulties probably caused Ne Win to postpone indefinitely several state visits he had scheduled.

NOTES

Cuba: Havana Radio has appealed for demonstrations in the Dominican Republic against Venezuelan President Betancourt, who is attending today's presidential inauguration there. A communiqué from the Cuba-based Dominican Liberation Movement urged Dominicans to repudiate this "bloody scourge...the darling of US interests" and thus show their solidarity with the "democratic and patriotic forces" now fighting in Venezuela.

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***Syria:** An extensive shake-up in the Syrian officer corps--reportedly involving the transfer of a number of senior officers--occurred on 23 February following an attempted mutiny on 21 February at the key Qatana garrison near Damascus. The shake-up has increased tension in the army and may precipitate another coup attempt.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board, on 21 February 1963, approved the following national intelligence estimate:

SNIE 85-2-63: "Reactions to U. S. Low-Level Overflights of Cuba"

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The Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

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